

Flood Risk Notification Program

FloodSAFE VISION

A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.



The Flood Risk Notification Program (FRN Program) is part of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) FloodSAFE California Initiative. The program's key goal is to increase flood risk awareness by effectively communicating that risk to individual property owners, the public, and local, state, and federal agencies. This includes encouraging people to understand the levee system that protects them; be prepared and aware of their flood risk; and take appropriate actions before, during, and after flooding to protect themselves, minimize damage to their property or personal possessions, and facilitate recovery.

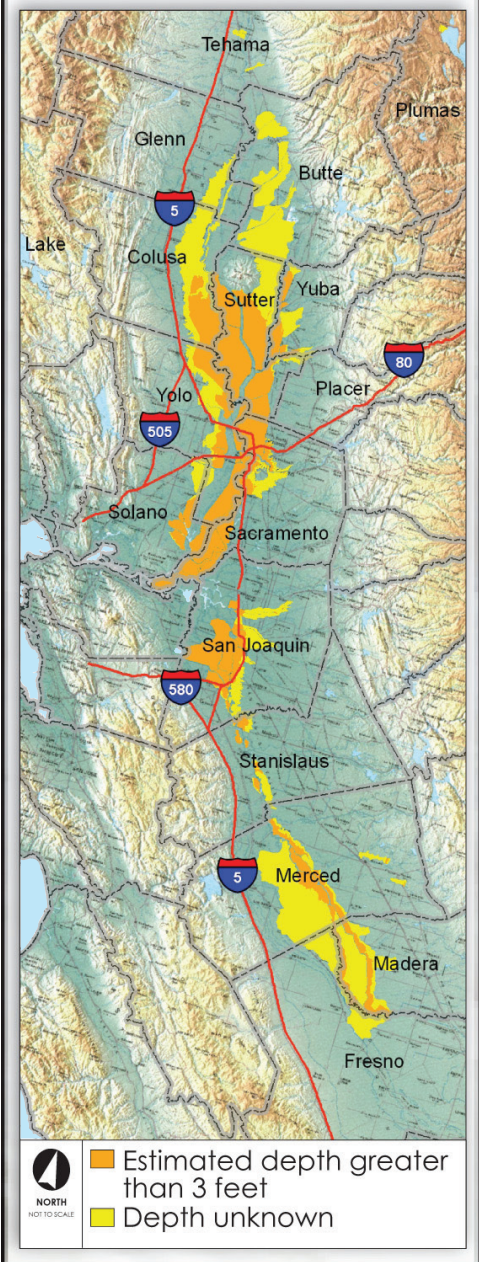
To achieve this goal, the FRN Program is:

- Sending out an annual notice to property owners whose property is at risk of flooding
- Maintaining accurate Levee Flood Protection Zone (LFPZ) maps and an associated parcel information database (please note: these maps are different from Federal Emergency Management Agency regulatory maps)
- Providing people with useful ways to assess risk and reduce flood loss
- Establishing outreach and educational projects with public involvement
- Expanding its interactive Flood Risk Notification website
- Collaborating with federal agencies, local agencies, and communities

Notification of Flood Risk

In September 2010, DWR provided the first annual written notice of flood risks to each landowner whose property is protected by State Plan of Flood Control levees and is within an LFPZ. The notice informs recipients of their property's potential flood risks and potential sources of flooding, and offers flood emergency planning and preparedness tips. It encourages recipients to take preventative actions such as purchasing flood insurance, elevating or "floodproofing" their buildings, and preventing blockage of channels, drains, and ditches.

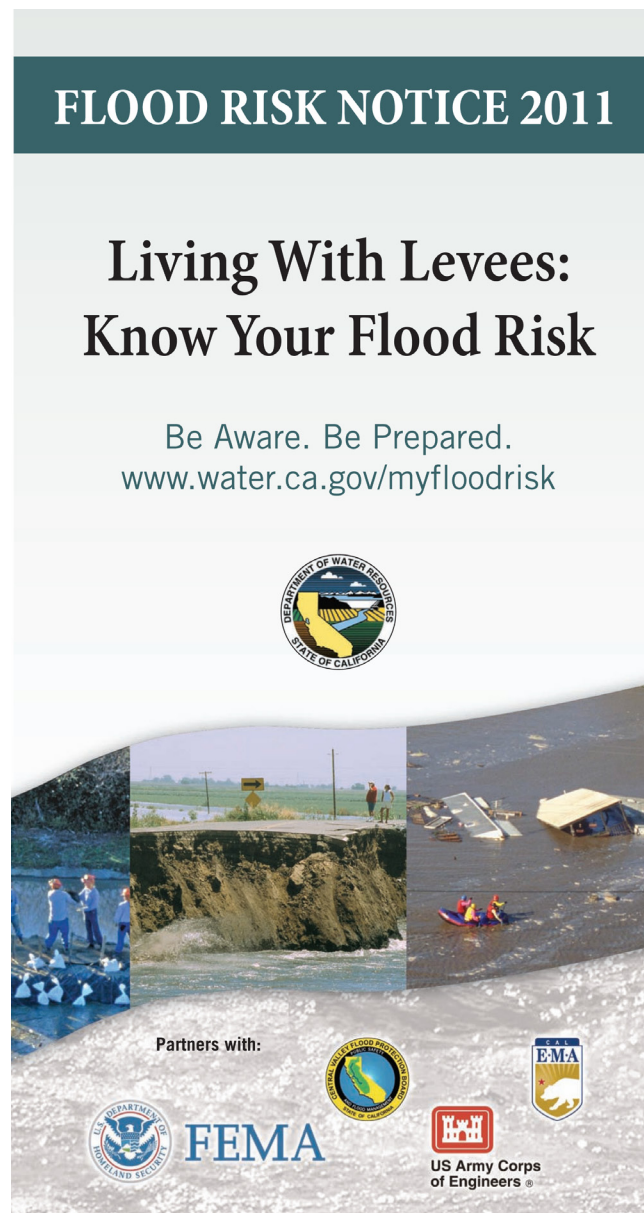
Levee Flood Protection Zone Map



Even if a levee is designed for the FEMA standard of a 1% annual chance flood, there is a 1-in-4 chance of a larger flood occurring within any 30-year period (the life of a typical home mortgage).

Residual Flood Risk?

If levees or other flood protection facilities are present, the frequency of flooding may be reduced. However, even if levees have been effectively maintained, they can fail or be "overtopped," with devastating consequences. For example, some urban areas in the Central Valley may experience flood depths of 20 feet or more if a levee fails, resulting in loss of homes, businesses, and possibly life. In other words, though risk of flooding can be significantly reduced by levees and other flood protection facilities, it cannot be entirely eliminated. Some residual risk will remain. Increasing public awareness and understanding of this residual risk are key goals of the annual notifications.



*Cover of the 2011
flood risk notice.*

For additional information on the Flood Risk Notification Program, please visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk>.